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CA Department of Developmental Services
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The California
Memorial Project

SEPTEMBER 2011

THE CALIFORNIA MEMORIAL PROJECT REMEMBRANCE DAY 2011

History

From the mid 1880s to the 1960s, more than 45,000 people passed away while living in a state institution. Their remains are for the most part unmarked, in mass gravesites, where numbered markers long ago disappeared.

In 2001 and 2006, then Senator Wesley Chesbro introduced legislation (SB 1448; SB 258) to establish the California Memorial Project (CMP) and expand its purpose. The combined intent of the two pieces of legislation was to:

- Identify the location of all gravesites at existing state hospitals and developmental centers;
- Identify the names of the patients whose remains were donated for medical research, and the entity which the remains were donated;
- Work with the Department of Mental Health and other state agencies to research the records of deaths and burials at cemeteries located on state hospital and developmental center grounds; and
- Develop a plan for the restoration of such cemeteries and gravesites at the locations identified.

About The California Memorial Project

The mission of CMP is to honor and restore dignity to those individuals who lived and died in state hospitals and institutions. Its goals include:

- Restore cemeteries or graves where individuals from state institutions are buried;
- Preserve the histories of individuals who lived in state institutions; and
- Document the history of the client and consumer movement in California

CMP receives funding from the Department of Mental Health and the Department of Developmental Services; however, most of the work of the project is funded through participating agencies and private donations.

Interesting Facts

- At Park View in Manteca, there are 2,284 cremated remains of people who died at Modesto State Institution and Stockton Developmental Center.
- Metropolitan State Hospital interred many individuals who had received treatment within the facility. Their remains were relocated to nearby area cemeteries in the early 1980s.
- Approximately 4,368 people were buried from 1875-1924 at Napa State Hospital.
- An estimated 2,024 people were buried from 1893-1934 at Patton State Hospital.
- 1,418 people are buried in a cemetery located in a field on the campus of Sonoma Developmental Center.

2011 Remembrance Day Locations

The 2011 Remembrance Day celebrations will take place in September and October, 2011. Following is a listing of Remembrance Day locations and dates:

Agnews Historic Cemetery

September 19, 2011

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

1250 Hope Drive

Santa Clara, CA 95054

Contact: Yvonne McGough (510) 267-1258

California State University- Channel Islands

September 19, 2011

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

1878 S. Lewis Road

Camarillo, CA 93012

Contact: Robyn Gantsweg (213) 355-3634

Porterville Cemetery

September 19, 2011

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

1013 East Olive Avenue

Porterville, CA 93257

Contact: David Solis (916) 488-7787

Metropolitan State Hospital Auditorium

September 19, 2011

10:00AM – 11:30 PM

11401 South Bloomfield Avenue

Norwalk, CA 90650

Contact: Brenda Calderon (213) 355-3633

Napa State Hospital (McGrath Auditorium)

September 19, 2011

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

2100 Napa-Vallejo Highway

Napa, CA 94558

Contact: Alicia Mendoza (916) 488-7787

Parkview Cemetery (Front circle)

September 19, 2011

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

3661 East French Camp Road

Manteca, CA 95336

Contact: Jenny Olson (916) 488-7787

Patton State Hospital (Cemetery)

October 10, 2011

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

3102 East Highland Avenue

Patton, CA 92369

Contact: Sheryl Bradford (619) 814-8509

Sonoma Developmental Center Gazebo

September 19, 2011

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

15000 Arnold Drive

Eldridge, CA 95431

Contact: Alicia Mendoza (916) 488-7787

Stockton Rural Cemetery

September 19, 2011

10:00 AM – 11:00 PM

2350 Cemetery Lane

Stockton, CA 95204

Contact: Jenny Olson (916) 488-7787

Ukiah Cemetery

Russian River Cemetery District

September 19, 2011

12:15 PM – 1:15 PM

940 Low Gap Road

Ukiah, CA 94582

Contact: Rob Chittenden (707) 443-2706

'Remember' with a Moment of Silence

If you, or someone you know, are unable to attend one of the Remembrance Day celebrations, please take five minutes of your time – from 1:55 PM to 2:00 PM on September 19– and join others from across California in remembering those whose lives were lost while living in a state institution.



For more information, or how to make a donation to the California Memorial Project, please contact one of the following:

- [CA Network of Mental Health Clients](#)
(916) 443-3232
- [Disability Rights California](#)
(916) 488-7787
- [People First California](#)
(916) 552-6625